

§Appl. No.: 09/901,632
Amdt. Dated: March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: December 3, 2003

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A unitary valve within a filter cartridge disposed between a filter element and an end plate, comprising:

 a unitary valve body of resilient flexible material, ~~and~~ including

 a bypass valve portion unitary with the valve body, the bypass valve portion being configured as a collar ~~and~~ having a sealing portion for sealing with the filter element, and spaced projections upstream of the ~~bypass valve~~ sealing portion ~~when the filter element is~~

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clogged, the spaced projections being disposed between and engaging both the bypass valve portion and the filter element for allowing direct fluid pressure application to the sealing portion, wherein when the filter element is clogged, increased fluid pressure separates the sealing portion from the filter element allowing the fluid to bypass the filter element.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The unitary valve according to claim 13 wherein an anti-drainback valve configured as a skirt extends radially from the collar portion.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 13 wherein the projections are ribs on the collar.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 14 wherein ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the sealing portion.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve of claim 16 wherein the resilient flexible material is rubber or nitrile rubber.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

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Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 13
wherein the sealing portion is an annular lip.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 20
wherein ribs extend over the valve body to provide channels for applying fluid pressure
to the annular lip.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 13
wherein the valve includes a portion abutted by the filter element for supporting the filter
element thereon.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) A unitary filter element support and valve within a filter
cartridge for mounting and being disposed between a filter element ~~on~~ and an end plate
within a filter cartridge, comprising:

 a unitary valve body of resilient flexible material;

 a bypass valve portion unitary with the valve body, the bypass valve portion being
configured as a collar and having a sealing portion for sealing with the filter element,
spaced projections upstream of the ~~bypass valve~~ sealing portion ~~when the filter element is~~

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clogged, the spaced projections being disposed between and engaging the bypass valve portion and the filter element for allowing direct fluid pressure application to the sealing portion, wherein when the filter element is clogged increased fluid pressure separates the sealing portion from the filter element allowing fluid to bypass the filter element, and an anti-drainback portion unitary with the body, the anti-drainback portion overlying inlet openings through the end plate.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The filter element support and valve according to claim 23 wherein the anti-drainback valve is a skirt extending radially from the collar portion.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The filter element support and valve according to claim 24 wherein the projections are ribs on the collar.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The filter element support and valve according to claim 25 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the sealing portion.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The filter element support and valve of claim 26 wherein the resilient flexible material is rubber or nitrile rubber.

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Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The unitary valve according to claim 24 wherein the sealing portion is an annular lip.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The filter element support and valve according to claim 27 28 wherein the ribs extend over the skirt to provide channels between the filter element and valve body for applying fluid pressure to the annular lip.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) A unitary filter element support and valve for mounting a filter element on an end plate within a filter cartridge, comprising:

 a molded unitary body of resilient flexible material formed as a single element and including a central axis;

 a radially-extending anti-drainback portion unitary with the body, the anti-drainback portion overlying inlet structure into an inlet chamber through the end plate; and

 a bypass valve portion unitary with the body, the bypass valve portion being configured as a collar and having a sealing ~~portions~~ portion for sealing with the filter element, said collar including spaced projections thereon upstream of the sealing portion for engaging the filter element and forming axially-extending channels between respective ones of said projections to allow fluid pressure from the inlet chamber to be

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applied to the sealing portion causing unseating thereof and a flow bypassing the filter element.